

fortismere

Transforming Lives Through Education

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Ms Zoe Judge



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Co-Headteachers' Weekly Roundup

During this blue moon week Fortismere has been undertaking activities that happen more regularly, if not every month. Some Key Stage 3 students went on the Harry Potter: A History of Magic trip to the British Library on Tuesday, organised by Ms Ward, Librarian Extraordinaire. The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

An annual event is the Year 9 Options Fair. Year 9 had a special assembly on Monday describing the Options process and to explain the purpose of the individual guidance meetings, which have been taking place this week. There has been much talk in the media this week (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-42862996>) about the squeeze on creative subjects. As a school, we are very proud of our creative and



expressive arts and their place in the Key Stage 4 curriculum as well as within the culture and ethos of Fortismere. Year 9 students were informed of the full range of subjects on offer and this was then shared with parents at the Fair on Tuesday. The diversity of the subjects on offer is a strength of the school and one we would seek to protect.

Dates For Your Diary

- 5-9 Feb **Mental Health Week:**
 - College Assemblies
 - Weds - Krispy Kreme Sale - bring cash!
 - Fri - Wear-A-Onesie Day - £1 on the gate
- 6 Feb Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 7-9 Feb GCSE History Trip to Berlin
- 7-13 Feb Year 13 Drama Trip to New York
- 12-16 Feb Half-Term
- 19-23 Feb Year 12 Geography Field Trip
- 20 Feb Year 13 Parents' Evening

DON'T MISS OUT!

Year 9 students also visited Muswell Hill Synagogue to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Fortismere works closely with the Synagogue and it is a privilege to be asked to participate in these events. It was both an important and sobering experience for the students and they conducted themselves well during the visit.

Next week Fortismere will be running a series of events in support of Children's Mental Health week: College assemblies and fundraising events in aid of mental health charities chosen by students. Further events to raise awareness of these issues will be taking place as we recognise the importance of our students' well-being. On that note, we wish you all a relaxing weekend.

Headteacher Recruitment - from the Governors

By the time you read this we will have completed our two-day Headteacher selection panel. It will have been a rigorous and comprehensive exercise and we expect to be able to make a decision immediately thereafter.

We'd like to thank all our stakeholders for being a part of this process, including staff, students and parents/carers - as well as governors.

We will of course make our decision known as soon as we can, via email and the school website for parents and carers. There are formalities, however, which we'll need to work through before we can announce the outcome,

which may take a number of days.

Thanks again for your insight and help.



Netball: London & South East Regional Round

Our Year 10 and 11 Netball Team was one of two schools representing the whole of Middlesex last Sunday (28th January) at the regional round of the National Schools' Netball Finals.

We travelled to Rainham School for Girls in Kent. Our group consisted of schools representing London, Kent and Essex. The girls got off to a great start beating Godolphin and Latymer and The Forest School. We then had two tough games back to back against Streatham & Clapham and Guilford which were close but unsuccessful.



However, we then went on to beat Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, and finished the day by beating Sacred Heart of Mary. The girls came 3rd in the group and *just* missed out on making it through to the last stage of the competition.

A fantastic achievement for all of those involved and for Fortismere! Congratulations to Merle Aylott, Lola Holtan, Armelle Ratcliffe, Ella Ejifor, Jana Kendrick, Leona Harrison, Roshan Woodroffe Northover, Rosie Dickens, Sofia Pocaro, Lauren Blake and Cleo Smith. You did us proud, girls!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Year 9 Trip: Muswell Hill Synagogue

On Monday, all of Year 9 attended Muswell Hill Synagogue to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Holocaust survivor Bernd Koshland told us of his experience of Kindertransport, and we learnt about the events leading up to and during the Holocaust. It was a moving and memorable experience, and our thanks go to Bernd and to Muswell Hill Synagogue for inviting us to share in such an important occasion.

Charity Band Night: 22nd February 2018

The legendary charity Band Night will take place on Thursday 22 February in the Music Hall, North Wing at 6.30pm.

Any parents/community bands/singers who want to perform an item at the event, please get in touch as we would like to involve a wide programme – any popular/world style of music would be great!

Students can also perform and auditions for students will be next week

at lunchtime and after school every day – see Ms Ogilby for details.

Please advertise to friends and family in case you know musicians that might like to perform for free, as all proceeds from the event will be donated to charity.

Help us to raise lots of money for charity and make it a night to remember!



Rhodes College Fundraising

Well done to the Rhodes Student Ambassadors for their Pizza Slice sale in aid of Cancer Research UK. The dynamic Year 9 publicity teams made sure the event was well advertised with posters all around the school. Then, on the day, Year 11 students took responsibility for helping the Year 7s and Year 8s to man the stall and keep the long queue of hungry students moving. With a choice of margherita or pepperoni, the pizzas sold out in no time. Well done Rhodes!



FROM THE LIBRARY

On Tuesday 30th January we took 120 students, mostly Years 7 and 8, to the British Library to see the phenomenal Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition. What a magical afternoon! After being divided into houses (hurrah for Slytherin!) we “delved into divination, pondered the peculiarities of potions and discovered enchanting creatures”. We saw an incredible philosopher’s stone parchment that had never before been unravelled since its creation in the 16th century. We saw rare books and objects. Our workshop leaders led us around each section of the gallery and showed us a real witch’s broomstick, Chinese divination bones (over 4,000 years old) and allowed us to create potions.



The exhibition is now completely sold out for the rest of its run so we feel incredibly privileged that our students had it to themselves for the afternoon. A huge thank you to our students who behaved impeccably on the journeys and in the British Library. “120 kids on the tube? You must be mad!” Not if they’re Fortismere students!

Eclipse Library Catalogue

Did you know that you can access our full catalogue from home, including the huge amount of accredited weblinks? On the school website homepage, go to Learning – Library and scroll down till you get to “Log in to elcse.net (the library catalogue)”. You can then type in titles, authors, genres and even keywords if you are searching for a research topic. Go on, explore! You may find that we already have the book you were thinking of spending a fortune on and you can borrow it for free...

Creative Writing Comp

We have some amazingly talented writers in the school as evidenced by Ms Massey’s weekly Creative Writing Group. If any of you are writing in private, here’s another great competition – the Wicked Young Writers 2018 Award is now open for entries! <http://bit.ly/2E6qtIs>

Notes from Non

Are they re-reading the same books? Good. It is in re-reading that they pick up language skills.

You can always recommend another title/author that is similar and ask for their opinion. Or suggest they ask their school librarian who has read every book in the universe!



Good stuff on telly

I’ll be watching The Wonderful World of Puppies this week: <http://bit.ly/2y8zpk9>
I need some “aaawww” time!

RECOMMENDED READ

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone is a beautifully atmospheric fantasy adventure with an evil queen and tough heroes and heroines who are helped in their quest by Erkenbears and golden eagles and hindered by horrific creatures formed of magic. Nature takes centre stage. This is a must-read – I predict that it will be one of the Biggest Books of 2018!



Every Child a Reader

Reading for pleasure is ... well a pleasure! We want all our students to be confident and fluent readers who are enthusiastic about choosing books for themselves and setting aside time every day to read them.

In library lessons, Years 7-9 do a Star Reading test every term. This is a multiple choice reading test that provides a reading age for students based on the answers they've chosen. Those of you who've checked Go4Schools this week will have noticed the appearance of this information at the bottom of the 'At a glance' box at the top of the page.

This information helps us to recommend books to students and to provide a talking point in library lessons about reading habits. In my Year 8 library lesson this week, some students who have been devouring books in the last term were delighted to see they'd improved their reading and comprehension skills; others told me they'd slowed down in their reading (the temptations of Youtube...) but can see that they need to get reading again to develop their comprehension.

Additionally, we use the information about reading ages to identify students who would benefit from further support. We have three fantastic and enthusiastic Reading Wise groups running for students in Year 7, as well as the Renaissance Max competition. Chapter 2 reading group for year 8 runs for targeted students in the library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays..

We also encourage keen readers: for example, Mrs Ward organises reading groups for the Haringey Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Award Shadowing. At sixth form level, I've enjoyed following the TS Eliot award shortlist with a fantastic group of poetry readers.

But don't just take our word for this...in a recent government report on reading for pleasure the following benefits were identified:

- 'There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development.' (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006).
- Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment (Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011).
- Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002).

Message from Local Police

We have been asked by the local Police to inform parents/carers that a number of students have been shouting abuse to them while they are on duty in Muswell Hill after school. Please can you remind your child/ren that this is not acceptable behaviour and tell them to refrain from insulting the police while they are simply doing their job.

Lost Work of Art

We've been joined by this lovely ceramic artwork in SW Office for the past week or so. It was left under a seat in Reception in South Wing. Please get in touch with the office to claim it. Thank you.



Quiz Night, Saturday 3rd March

Devised and hosted by Pauline Eyre, tickets will be £10 per person to make up teams of 8-10 people. Smaller groups will be arranged to make up a full team.

There will be a bar but bring food to share with your team.

This is a lovely evening with many laughs and a great opportunity to meet other parents; perhaps have a table with other parents from your child's class?

Doors open from 6.30pm in North Wing Hall

Fun Run, Sunday 18th March

X Factor finalist Talia Dean will be joining us at this event to raise money for Student Mental Health and the Vik Sharma Memorial Garden.

We're organising a sponsored 2k Fun Run and Easter Egg Hunt through East Finchley. Registration will start at 10am and the Run begins at 11am at Twyford Avenue Gate. The joy of the run is in taking part, so you can run, jog or walk the course in fancy dress - you decide! There'll also be plenty of entertainment with refreshments and an Easter Egg Hunt after the run. The perfect event for the whole family and for a wonderful cause!

Registration Fee: Adults £20. Students £10. Under 5s free.

Register now www.fsaevents.moonfruit.com

Deadline to register: 16th of March

Sponsorship forms and a route map available on the FSA website, or from the school library.

Dust off those trainers...!

Help the FSA to Help Fortismere!

Please consider supporting Fortismere with a regular donation to the FSA:

www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool

Even £10 each month really helps. We are also very grateful for one-off donations.